



PRESS RELEASE

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ARIZONA MAN SENTENCED TO 13 ½ YEARS IN PRISON FOR ROLE IN TORTURE OF TWO ILLEGAL ALIENS

TUCSON, Ariz. – Barry Van Brocklin, age 27, of Three Points, Ariz., was sentenced to 162 months in prison on February 3, 2005 by U.S. District Judge Frank R. Zapata after Van Brocklin pleaded guilty on October 7, 2004, to one count of Hostage Taking in violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 1203.

On September 30, 2003, Van Brocklin was arrested in Three Points, Ariz., on kidnapping and aggravated assault charges and was detained by Pima County Superior Court in Tucson, Ariz. He remained in custody while federal charges were filed in October 2003. On November 5, 2003, an indictment was filed charging Van Brocklin, along with Hector Soria, Miguel Cazares, Sr., Angel Navarro-Leon, and Jesusita Guerrero, of Conspiracy to Harbor Illegal Aliens for Private Financial Gain, Harboring Illegal Aliens with Serious Bodily Injury, Harboring Illegal Aliens for Private Financial Gain. Van Brocklin and Soria were also charged with Conspiracy to Hostage Take and Hostage Taking.

According to the plea agreement, Van Brocklin admitted that on September 22, 2003, he and Soria, went into a trailer in Three Points, Ariz. where Roselin Rodriguez-Bravo and an unknown male, both of whom were illegal aliens, were sleeping. Soria and Van Brocklin then held and detained Roselin Rodriguez-Bravo and the unknown male against their will. Van Brocklin was armed with a shovel which he held in a threatening manner against the aliens and blocked the only exit of the trailer so that the aliens could not escape. Soria then beat both aliens with his belt buckle, cut Roselin Rodriguez-Bravo with a knife, stabbed him

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with a screw driver and knocked out his front teeth while Van Brocklin guarded the door with the shovel. Soria then demanded phone numbers of the aliens' family members so that he could call them and demand \$1,500 payment from them for the release of the aliens and delivery to Phoenix. Van Brocklin would have received part of the \$1,500 payment. Van Brocklin also admitted that a weapon was used during the offense, bodily injury was suffered by the aliens, and that the aliens were vulnerable victims.

"This case represents a two-fold message - coyotes will be punished and coyotes cannot be trusted," stated U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton. "This case is yet another example of the brutality and violence that are trademarks of the human smuggling trade," said Kent Johansson, Special Agent-in-Charge of ICE investigations in Arizona. Johansson added, "This sentence should send a strong message to anyone engaged in this greed-driven enterprise that they face serious consequences for their actions."

Soria pleaded guilty to Hostage Taking on July 28, 2004 and is set for sentencing before Judge Frank R. Zapata on February 14, 2005.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Pima County Sheriff's Department. The prosecution was handled by Serra M. Tsethlikai, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

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